

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Julianna Moreno, the San Benito High School student who won the local division of the 27th annual Congressional Art Competition, visited Washington this week. Her painting, titled "Flower Girl," will hang in the U.S. Capitol for a year.

" Julianna is a wonderful artist, and I'm proud to have her painting on display in Washington, " said Congressman Sam Farr (D-Carmel), who spent time with her Wednesday morning. " She's a great example for all of her classmates. "

Julianna's painting beat our 29 other entries from the Central Coast and won her roundtrip tickets to Washington and a \$5,000 renewable scholarship; Julianna's father, Michael Thomas Moreno, accompanied her to Washington. The runner-up painting by Harbor High School senior Rachel Byers, "Evanzeye II," will hang in Rep. Farr's Washington office for a year.

This is the 27th year for the contest, known as " An Artistic Discovery. " The competition is held in communities across the country and is the brainchild of the Congressional Arts Caucus, of which Rep. Farr is a member.

" I've always supported art programs, both on the Central Coast and at the federal

level," Rep. Farr said. "Art is such an important part of our school curriculum, but unfortunately it is also one of the first programs cut when funds become tight. I'm pleased that Julianna submitted her work, and I'm also proud that her teacher, John Robrock, is doing such a good job with his students."

The Central Coast's contest is organized by Bertha Muñoz, a congressional aide in Rep. Farr's Salinas office. Information is provided to area high schools in the winter announcing contest details. For further information on next year's program, call 831-424-2229.

High-resolution photos and candids are available. Contact Tom Mentzer at tom.mentzer@mail.house.gov or call 202-225-2861.

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